

NASA Glenn Safety Manual

CHAPTER 19a - BICYCLE SAFETY POLICY

Revision Date: 12/99

19a.1 GENERAL

This policy defines the elements of Glenn Research Center Bicycle Safety Program, developed to ensure the safety of all cyclists at the Center. The State of Ohio recognizes bicycles as a mode of transportation that must follow the same traffic laws as any other motor vehicle. Therefore, at Glenn, bicycle operators will follow the same applicable traffic laws that motor vehicles operators obey.

This policy applies to all NASA and contractor personnel and students at Glenn.

19a.2 EQUIPMENT

1. All bicycles used for "official use" at Glenn should be kept in good repair. Adjust your bike to fit you and keep it working properly. Check brakes and tires regularly.
2. All bicycles used for "official use" at Glenn will be maintained in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. It is the responsibility of the organization that owns these vehicles to properly maintain them.

19a.3 PERSONNEL PROTECTION

1. The use of a helmet is **HIGHLY** recommended.
2. **Never** ride with headphones or any type of hearing protection.

19a.4 RIDING SAFETY RULES

1. Obey traffic signs and signals. Bicycles must drive like other vehicles if they are to be taken seriously by motorists.
2. Never ride against traffic. State law requires that bicyclists travel in the same direction as all other traffic for the lane.
3. Hand signals or any type of mechanical/electrical signaling device are required to tell motorists and pedestrians what you intend to do. Signaling is required by law and is a matter of courtesy, and self-protection.
4. Do not weave between parked cars. Do not ride near the curb between parked cars unless they are far apart. Motorists may not see you when you try to move back into traffic.
5. Ride in the middle of the lane at busy intersections and whenever you are moving at the same speed as traffic.

6. Leave at least 3 feet between your bicycle and parked cars. Motorists in parked cars are better able to see you in that position and you are better able to avoid a car door that is opened in your path.
7. Follow lane markings. Do not turn left from the right lane. Do not go straight in a lane marked "right-turn only". Turn left from the left turn lane.
8. Do not pass on the right. Motorists may not look for or see a bicycle passing on the right.
9. Scan the road behind. Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving. Some riders use rear-view mirrors.
10. Avoid road hazards. Watch out for gravel, ice, or debris. Avoid road construction areas and closed roads (especially if they are closed for research operations).
11. Be ready to brake at all times. Allow extra distance for stopping in the rain, since brakes are less efficient when wet.
12. Use lights at night or when visibility is low. The law requires a white headlight (visible from at least 500 feet ahead) and a rear reflector or taillight (visible up to 300 feet from behind).
13. Be visible. Dress appropriately. Wear bright colored clothing so a motorist or a pedestrian can see the rider.

19a.5 TRAINING

All bicyclists are encouraged to view the excellent training video "**Effective Cycling**" which is available through the Glenn Learning Center.

19a.6 ENFORCEMENT

The Security Management Office (SMO) will issue citations to cyclists for any violation of traffic laws or any of the above-mentioned rules.

19a.7 ACCIDENTS

Accidents involving a bicycle should be reported to the SMO or the Glenn Safety Office. The SMO investigates all vehicle accidents.

NASA Responsible Official: [Manuel Dominguez](#)

Web Curator: [Deborah Ripley](#)